

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) Damping device for damping the kinetic energy of at least one movable cabinet component, comprising:

a first damping element with a first cylinder that has a first piston, which slides lengthwise in the first cylinder;

at least one second damping element with a second cylinder that has a second piston, which slides lengthwise in the second cylinder;

wherein the damping elements are located one behind the other in a serial arrangement and form an integral system; each of the damping elements is designed as a pneumatic damper, and each one has a compression chamber and an expansion chamber that have variable volumes; and each piston has a guide canal, which controls air distribution and air flow within and between at least one of the respective compression chambers, the respective expansion chambers, and the respective compression and expansion chambers, and which affects damping effects of the damping elements.

2. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 1, wherein each damping element has a seal between an outer circumference of the respective piston and an inner circumference of the corresponding cylinder.

3. (currently amended) Damping device, according to claim 2, wherein the piston of the first damping element is operably connected to the piston of the second damping element during a predetermined ~~entire~~ operating distance of the damping device.

4. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 3, wherein the expansion chamber of the second damping element is disposed rearward of the compression

chamber of the first damping element and is separated from the compression chamber of the first damping element by a partition.

5. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 4, wherein a piston rod of the second piston projects through an opening in the partition into the compression chamber of the first damping element so that a front side of the piston rod of the second piston is taken up into a respective recess of the first piston.

6. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 5, wherein a seal is provided between the piston rod of the second piston and the opening in the partition.

7. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 6, wherein a spring is located in the second damping element in order to affect a resetting force on the damping elements.

8. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 7, wherein the expansion chamber of the second damping element is in communication with an external environment by an opening formed in the expansion chamber of the second damping element.

9. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 8, wherein a piston rod of the first piston is guided through a cylinder cap into the external environment whereby, the expansion chamber of the first damping element is in communication with the external environment by a remaining gap between the cylinder cap and the piston rod.

10. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 9, wherein the guide canal of the first piston further comprises a bore-hole extending longitudinally through the first piston, by which the compression chamber of the first damping element is in communication with the external environment.

11. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 10, wherein the guide canal of the second piston further comprises a bore-hole extending longitudinally through the second piston by which the compression chamber of the second damping element is in communication with the external environment.

12. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 11, wherein the guide canals of the first and second pistons are in communication with one another.

13. (previously presented) Damping device, according to claim 12, further comprising a leakage canal formed in the recess of the first piston by which the compression chamber of the first damping element is in communication with the guide canal of the first piston.

14. (withdrawn) Damping device, according to claim 9, wherein the guide canal of the second piston is located on a surface portion of piston rod of the second piston and extends in a longitudinal direction of the piston rod of the second piston a predetermined distance from the front face of the piston rod, whereby the compression chamber of the first damping element is in communication with the expansion chamber of the second damping element during a portion of a predefined operating distance of the second piston.

15. (withdrawn) Damping device, according to claim 14, further comprising a guide canal of the second cylinder located on an inner wall of the second cylinder and

extending in a longitudinal direction of the second cylinder a predetermined distance from an end area of the second cylinder, whereby the compression chamber of the second damping element is in communication with the expansion chamber of the second damping element during a portion of a predefined operating distance of the second piston.

16. (withdrawn) Damping device, according to claim 9, wherein the guide canal of the second piston further comprises a bore-hole extending longitudinally through the second piston, by which the compression chamber of the first damping element is in communication with the compression chamber of the second damping element.

[15. (duplicate claim deleted)]

17. (withdrawn) Damping device, according to claim 16, further comprising a guide canal of the second cylinder located on an inner wall of the second cylinder and extending in a longitudinal direction of the second cylinder a predetermined distance from an end area of the second cylinder, whereby the compression chamber of the second damping element is in communication with the expansion chamber of the second damping element during a portion of a predefined operating distance of the second piston.